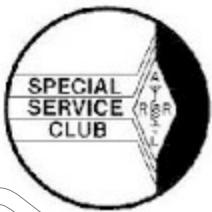




# The Blurb



*Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club*

***60 Years of Public Service, 1949 to 2009***

Volume 59 Number 2

[www.phil-mont.org](http://www.phil-mont.org)

February 2009

## *Auction-Fest Frenzy!*



**Bargains galore! Fabulous prizes!  
And a boost to the PMRC scholarship fund!**



**The Blurb** is published monthly by and for the members of The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, Inc., whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. **Copying and quoting** is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs.

Requests should be sent to the Editor.

**Subscriptions** are available to non-members for \$12, addressed to the Treasurer.

**Editor:** Rick DeVigiliis **KB3JWK**

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**Club Archivist:** Gwen Patton **NG3P**

ng3p@arrl.net 610-630-9862

**Labels and mailing:** **WB3KOJ & WB3KOH**

**Submissions deadline:** All copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the previous month.

### Directors:

**W3AOK (09)**

**WA3KIO (09)**

**N3XKE (09)**

**N3MT (10)**

**KB2ERL (10)**

**KB3IV (10)**

**NS3K (4)**

**Contact Phil-Mont: P.O. Box 88  
Abington, PA 19001**

<http://www.phil-mont.org>

Webmistress: Maggie K3XS

k3xs@arrl.net

**For club information:** Contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes and articles for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: [wb3koj@comcast.net](mailto:wb3koj@comcast.net)

### Sunday Morning Net Schedules

- **2 Meter/ 70cm Net** ..... at 0930L on W3QV repeater
- **10-on-10 Net** ..... at 1000L 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM)
- **75 meter Net** ..... at 1020L 3.993 MHz LSB
- **ARES** at 2100L on the W3QV repeater

### Committees

Archives: **NG3P**

Audit: **NS3K**

Awards: open

Blurb folding: **WB3KOJ & WB3KOH**

Directory: **WB3KOJ**

DX: **N3MT**

Emerg. Coor: **K3HWE**

Field Day: **KE3QB**

Internet: **K3XS**

Membership: **N3XKE**

Net Control: **KB3IV**

Publicity: **W3RM**

Program: Club VP

Public Service: **KE3QB**

Refreshments: **W3AOK**

Repeater: **W3AOK**

Skywarn: **WX3PHI**

Sunshine: **N3GLU**

TVI: **W3VVS**

VE Program: **NS3K**

W3AA Trustee:

**WU3I**

Welcome: **N3UBY**

Youth: **N3MT**

### All visitors are welcome!

The club meets at 7:30 PM on the **second** non-holiday Wednesday each month except July and August at

**Roxborough Memorial Hospital**, 5800 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128

Maps and directions are available at [www.phil-mont.org](http://www.phil-mont.org)

**License Examinations** are held on the fourth **non-holiday Thursday** each month at  
**Community Ambulance Association, 1414 E. Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19002**

Registration begins at 7:00 P.M. Applicants should contact Jim McCloskey NS3K at 215-275-2979 or [jmcclloskey@msn.com](mailto:jmcclloskey@msn.com) for the latest information.

**Club Stations W3QV/R: The Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System**

Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA **Trustee: W3RM**

**147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz**

Reach us on EchoLink through **WU3I-L**

**W3EM: Field Day/special event station Trustee: W3VVS**

### The Officers

**President:** **WU3I Steve Hoch**, 546 Monastery Ave, Philadelphia PA 19128 [wu3i@arrl.net](mailto:wu3i@arrl.net)

**Vice President:** **N3QV Eric D. Marano**, PO BOX 233, Skippack PA 19474 [n3qv@arrl.net](mailto:n3qv@arrl.net)

**Secretary:** **W3STW Al Tribble** [wstw@juno.com](mailto:wstw@juno.com)

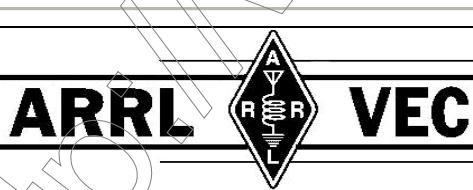
**Treasurer:** **W3RM Richard A. Moll** [roger.mike@verizon.net](mailto:roger.mike@verizon.net)

**Asst. Treasurer:** **N3MT Michael P. Taraborrelli** [michaelmt\\_1999@yahoo.com](mailto:michaelmt_1999@yahoo.com)

**The Prez Sez...**

Holy Cow, it's February already! I just got back from a trip to see the Club Archivist, NG3P Gwen, and after more than an hour browsing the collected goodies all I can say is WOW. I have looked thru this stuff before when it was at my house but not for a while. Pictures from the 35<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, and 50<sup>th</sup> celebrations. As well as forgotten events such as Paddlerama, elections with competition and chasing balloons. But you will be seeing more of this stuff in the months to come featured in this esteemed publication. We still need more volunteers to operate W3AA from their home stations. If you have the ability please contact W3STW or any Officer. The temps are down right now but spring is just a few months away and that means antenna time. BE CAREFUL OUT THERE! If anybody knows how bad it hurts to fall down I DO. See you at the Meeting.

*de Steve, WU3I*

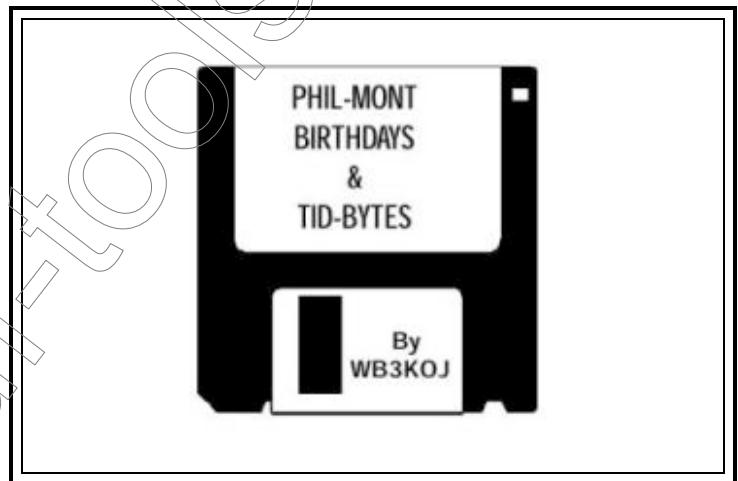


At our December 18, 2008 VE session we had 4 candidates take a total of 8 elements. We had a 50% passing percentage with one upgrade to Tech from Novice and three new Techs.

At our January 22, 2009 session we had 3 candidates take a total of 4 elements. We had a 75% passing percentage with one new Tech, one upgrade to General and one upgrade to Extra.

**73 de NS3K**

*(I saw the VE team at work firsthand on January 22 and want to thank them for their time and energy. Oh yes, and thanks for the Extra ticket too! –ed.)*

**February Birthdays**

- 01 Charlotte Feierman (XYL K3EUI)
- 03 Barry Feierman - K3EUI
- 04 Eunice Bohlander (XYL W3VVS)
- 05 Mike Concordia - WB3KAC
- 09 Maripat Pressler (XYL W3ZXV)
- 10 Sharon Masarsky - N3GLU
- 17 Sam Smith - K3GBA
- 18fd Bill Mannino - WA3NSP  
Mim Roeshman (XYL W3LKI)
- 23 Gene DiNardi - N3XKE  
Steve Victor – WA2DTW
- 24 Carmen DeCicco - KE3QB  
Larry Pollack - N3VLC

**MEMBERSHIP STATS***Will resume in April.***The following radio amateur has applied for Phil-Mont membership**

John A. Furlong - KC2TUT "John"  
 26 S. Childs Street  
 Woodbury, NJ 08096  
 Phone: 856-845-7032  
 DOB: 3/1/1962  
 License Class: Technician (Exp. 8/11/2018)  
 Email: furshort@verizon.net  
 Spouse: Tina Furlong DOB: 3/6/1964

*John is the father of Andrew, KC2PMW -ed.*

**Dues & Directory Update**

**Dues are due! For those who have not paid, this is your last chance to update your directory information.**  
**W3RM awaits your money!**

Field Day Chair, Carmen KE3QB, reports ThPennsylvania State Park Commission has granted

the Club permission to use Valley Forge State Park site "B" for year 2009 Field Day. The BoD approved a motion to pay the required Fee.

Ed KB3IV, net control Chairman, has released a new revision of the Club's net control preamble and the Echo Link call is W3AA-L

Approved by the trustee of the Club's station license, Al W3STW, reports that when operating on the HF bands during the month of January, he uses W3AA to commemorate the Club's sixtieth year of organization. Stations wishing to QSL may do so by sending a certificate sized S.A.S.E., to Phil-Mont P.O. Box 88 Abington, Pa 19001.

This activity will continue through the remaining months of 2009. Responding to a call for volunteers during December '08 Steve reports Rolland, W3PWG and Andrew KC2PMW, have volunteered for the months of August and June respectively. [*years young this August!* -ed.]

The BoD initiated an action item (AI) to update the web page and resolve any storage issues of Club records.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and approved at 2045 hours.

**PMRC General Meeting Minutes - January 14, 2009**

By the time I arrived, at 1945 hours, the first PMRC general meeting/annual Auctionfest of January 14th 2009, proceedings were well under way, all the wine and cheese, hot sliced roast beef and fancy pastry had been consumed by guests and hungry club members. I did arrive in time to get a report that all of the Club's bills have been paid and the treasury is in good shape.

Dick, W3RM, Club Treasurer, announced the BoD's approval of two new members and introduced Jeff KB3QMT and Doug W3/G7NZZ.

**From the Secretary****PMRC BoD Meeting - January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

The first BoD meeting of 2009 began at 1955 hours. Attending were Bill W3AOK, Bob KB2ERL, Steve WU3I, Fred WA3KIO, Ed KB3IV, Dick W3RM, Al W3STW and Gene N3XKE.

Comments on the reports given are as follows: Dick, club treasurer, says the club finances are in order and reminds us that the club needs money for our year 2009 commitment to the FAR Scholarship program.

Gene, Membership committee chair, reports two amateurs, Jeff Bishop KB3QMT and Doug Poole, W3/G7NZZ requested club membership; after a short discussion a motion to accept their request was approved.

Club Secretary Al, W3STW, reports the project of using the Club's station call W3AA when he is operating on the HF bands to commemorate the

Club's sixtieth year of organization during the month of January, 2009 has begun.

Steve is asking HF - qualified members to take turns using W3AA as their station call for a month at a time. Responding to the request are Rick, KB3JWK, Andrew, KC2PMW Rolland, W3PWG and Doug, W3/G7NZZ. There being no other Club reports Ed and Steve began the PMRC 2009 Auctionfest activities.

*de Al W3STW, PMRC Secretary*

## **The Radio Stores series continues...**

### **RADIO ELECTRIC SERVICE COMPANY**

#### **The rise and fall of a giant**

By Bob Thomas, W3NE

Attitudes toward replacing things that stopped working have changed drastically since the depression and ensuing war and recovery years. When a radio or other appliance failed in the '30s and '40s there was never a thought of simply throwing it away and buying a new one, as is common today. Of course, "times have changed," and for good reason. Contrary to the situation now, when repairing something can cost almost as much as a brand new item, in those far off years when there was no such thing as "discretionary spending," there was widespread support from a network of local service companies and neighborhood moonlighters. They could set things right with a failed radio or broken appliance for a fraction of its replacement cost. That not only enabled

impecunious folk to save their limited funds for mundane expenses like coal, shoes, or a college education, it spawned a thriving manufacturing and sales industry that supplied parts to local service companies and, incidentally, to hobbyists interested in making their own electronic equipment.

Radio Electric Service Company, known in early days simply as "Radio Electric," and later as "RESCO," was a large store on the northwest

corner of 7<sup>th</sup> and Arch Streets. The interior of the store was foreboding, with a stark sales area having no resemblance to a showroom.

Although bare and nondescript, in its heyday, Radio Electric had the most comprehensive stock of radio components and small household appliance replacement parts of any store in the city, so that's where you went! On the downside, if you were a student, or a working stiff who couldn't get time off to shop during the week, or perhaps a radio service man who encountered an unexpected Friday Afternoon Emergency, you had no choice but to endure "Saturday Morning Hell" at Radio Electric. The closest thing to that experience today is the trading floor of the New York Stock Exchange!

Saturday morning saw swarms of customers, sometimes jostling two-deep, at the long sales counter. Standing on one side of you might be a "civilian" looking for "one of these," waving a cruddy tube with the type number worn off, and on the other side maybe a prosperous service business proprietor buying ten vibrators for 1938 Packard auto radios and two dozen filter condensers. Guess who got the most attention! Everyone would be served in due time by a counterman who might be either sympathetic and helpful or, more than likely, indifferent and impatient. After a few visits you learned which type each salesman was, and looked the other way if one of the latter approached. Sometimes exotic gear like a communications receiver or a PA amplifier with record player on top would be bought by an excited enthusiast next to you who would be only too glad to open the carton so all could see his new prize.

When you had everything you wanted and a sales slip was written-up, the clerk took your money and stuffed it with the receipt into a brass cylinder about two-inches in diameter and eight-inches long. After closing an end cap on the cylinder, it was pushed into a tube that extended down from the ceiling and then, with a "thup," it was sucked away on a trip through a complex vacuum pipe system to a cashier out of sight on the second floor.

In a few minutes, there would be a "thunk" as the carrier dropped out of the tube with your change and receipt. Such technology!

Finally out on Arch Street, you drew a deep breath, not only thankful that you could now go home and start building that latest 10 meter preamp, but especially for having once again survived Saturday Morning Hell.

Nothing lasts forever and as years went on, the replacement parts market declined and competitors siphoned away much of the remaining small parts business enjoyed by RESCO during and immediately after the war. The store responded by reorganizing to feature high fidelity audio equipment just as that hobby began to flourish in the '50s, first with monophonic and later stereo gear. Austin Gutman, who had been one of the friendlier countermen, was promoted to Manager of the HiFi Department. Most of the old sales counter was removed, to be replaced by attractive displays of major components and complete high fidelity systems with elaborate demonstration facilities.

With his affable personality, Austin made a lot of audio sales, rapidly gained recognition throughout the city and within the company, and finally was promoted to Store Manager. He was a ham (W3FOG) and in later years joined Phil-Mont, sometimes entertaining us with stories and programs about his exploits flying RC aircraft at Valley Forge Park. Eventually the high fidelity market migrated to upper end specialist stores, so

Austin modified the sales floor once again, this time with self-serve display stands and a supermarket-type of checkout counter. That was not enough though, so in what was to be a final attempt to counteract continued declining revenue during the '60s, RESCO embarked on an ambitious expansion program with establishment of branch stores in the extremities of the city and in the suburbs. That was a fleeting and unsuccessful strategy.

Unable to compete against the mushrooming incursion of chain stores specializing in imported products, the once vibrant Radio Electric Service Company finally went out of business. As bad as it might have seemed at the time, Saturday Morning Hell has become a wistful memory!



*Ed is our intrepid auctioneer and Steve carefully records each transaction.*

## ***W3AA operators needed! Choice spots still available!***

**To mark PMRC's 60 years of public service a special event station will be operated all year long. The specifics haven't been fully worked out yet but the plan is to have one member on the HF bands as W3AA for a month at a time. This could be weekends, weeknights or whenever you're available. Al W3STW took January and Rick KB3JWK has February. Andrew KC2PMW, Rolland W3PWG and Doug W3/G7NZZ have also volunteered. Contact any officer if you'd like to get on the schedule. Stations worked will receive a certificate if they send a 9 x12 inch SASE.**

# The Blurb

February 2009

Unfortunately we missed the broadcast but this is an interesting piece of history. Red says if you contact Ms. Dougan you can get on the mailing list for further events. Thanks Red!



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cape Cod National

Seashore  
99 Marconi Site Road  
Wellfleet, MA 02667

508 771 2144 phone  
508 349 9052 fax

## Cape Cod National Seashore News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 5, 2009  
CONTACT: Barbara Dougan, Education Specialist 508-255-3421 x 16

### Cape Cod National Seashore to Commemorate 100th Anniversary of the First Marconi Distress Message

On a cold January night in 1909, in a deep fog, two ships collided off Nantucket. The *Republic*, was a luxury liner, headed out from New York City for a leisurely cruise around the Mediterranean. The *Florida*, was filled with impoverished people fleeing the consequences of an earthquake in Messina, Italy, in the hope of a better life in America.

After the collision, Jack Binns, the Marconi wireless operator on board the sinking *Republic*, tapped out a Morse code message, "CQD CQD here is MKC MKC shipwrecked." This message initiated the first major rescue at sea accomplished by means of wireless. In 1909 CQD was the Marconi signal used to call all stations in an emergency, and MKC were the letters for the *Republic*, which was rammed by the *Florida*. After all 1500 passengers and crew were rescued, Binns became known as "CQD Binns," the first hero of wireless.

On January 23 and 24 Cape Cod National Seashore will host two programs to commemorate this historic event. On Friday, January 23 at 8:30 AM the seashore's radio club, KM1CC, will resend Jack Binns' 1909 message in the presence of the Binns Family. Amateur radio operators, shortwave, and 2 meter band radio listeners can tune in to hear the message. On Saturday, January 24 at 1 PM at the seashore's Salt Pond Visitor Center, Jack Binns' eldest grandchild, Dr. Virginia Utermohlen Lovelace, will present a one-hour program focused on ship-to-shore communication in 1909, her grandfather, and the surprising connection between the 1909 wreck and the sinking of the *Titanic* three years later. The program is free and open to the public. Salt Pond Visitor Center is located at Route 6 and Nauset Road in Eastham.

For more information, contact Cape Cod National Seashore Education Specialist Barbara Dougan, at (508) 255-3421, extension 16.

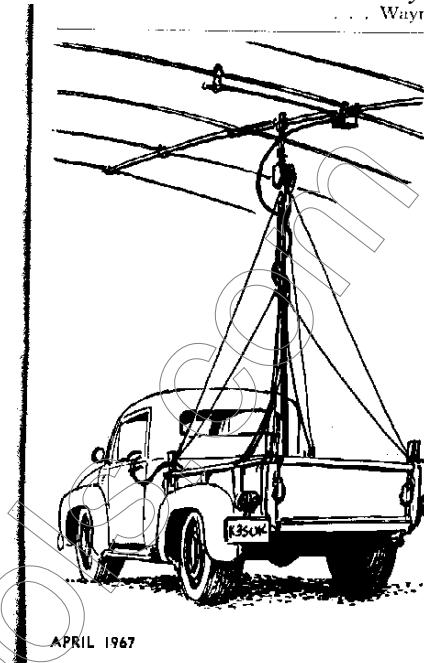
- MORE -

February at PMRC...

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday WB3KOJ NCS
- 4<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors Meeting
- 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday WU3I NCS
- 11<sup>th</sup> General Membership Meeting
- 14<sup>th</sup> Valentine's day...*stay out of the doghouse everyone!*
- 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday KB3IV NCS
- 16<sup>th</sup> Presidents day
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday KC2PMW NCS

And don't forget the ARES net every Sunday night at 2100L on the club repeater. Larry, K3HWE, wants to hear from *you!*

*Don sent this cartoon ... but the wisecrack is mine-  
Thanks Don! - ed.*



*Hey! I know that guy!*

## *First Class Mail*

*http://www.pact-fool.com*

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc  
641 Kismet Road Philadelphia PA 19115

*The Blurb*